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Recommendations and Problems
Monthly Reports for April 1958

CARTOGRAPHY DIVISION

The most serious continuing problem facing the Division is the delay being experienced in getting requests through the reproduction plants. The rigid priorities established for the production of final NIS work has, coupled with an overload of work in the Printing Services Division, made it extremely difficult for this Division to plan and execute current operational and report requests within the limited deadlines established by the component requesting our services. In addition, current NIS work is being delayed in that preliminary reproduction and proofing requests are assigned relatively low priority in the reproduction plants and thereby delay a systematic scheduling of NIS work contributed by D/GC.

Due to the reassignment and transfer of personnel, it is anticipated a staffing problem will occur in the USSR and Satellite Branch. At present, the workload of this Branch is double that of the other Compilation Branches.

The Chapter I and base map schedules for fiscal '59 and '60 are concentrated in the Europe-Africa area and appear to be greater than the capabilities of this Branch to fulfill Division commitments.

FAR EAST COMPILATION BRANCH

There is concern about the problem of substantive accuracy of at least the basic part of those maps done in the Chart and Graph section of the Construction Branch, and also as to the accuracy of the data supplied by some requesters for the substantive portions of those maps. This concern is, of course, felt only in relation to maps done in the areas for which the Far East Compilation Branch is responsible.

It is true that we are usually, if not always, consulted informally regarding the base; but when the map appears for our check we find things that are not as they should be. The reasons for this lie primarily in the inherent lack of area competence on the part of the personnel in the Chart and Graph Section and the fact that the map has not been compiled by a person who has that competence. The worksheet is not reviewed by the Far East Branch and the map is unfortunately put into fair drawing form before it comes under careful scrutiny by persons who are familiar with the area. The requestors are frequently not sufficiently familiar with the areas they are working on to be able to recognize the mistakes on their own maps. The critical review of the substantive data and the coordinating of it with the geographic base map is the forte of the compilation branch and this is not being done as it would be on that portion of the Division's production that is done outside of the compilation branches.

The question has been raised that if there is sufficient work of this nature to be done in the Chart and Graph Section, would it not be better to move the slot to the compilation branch, provide adequate personnel

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CARTOGRAPHY DIVISION

FAR EAST COMPILATION BRANCH (Cont'd)

there for the proper compilation of all the maps that come to the Division for production and insure a higher level of quality in the maps? The time to draft such maps is usually not great and if they were drafted from a set of specifications and worksheet that were in order, the total time spent would not be greater, might even be less assuming that the competent IO Cartographer was in a position to turn it out promptly, and the need for corrections would be minimized and a map more representative of the abilities of the Cartography Division would be the result.

The fine points of substance which come up in the checking of the maps done in the Chart and Graph Section which are brought to light by the Compilation Branch usually have to be resolved by the Branch anyway. This results in the expenditure of time by the Compilation Branch and the loss of efficiency in the production of such maps when done in the Chart and Graph Section. The hope that any one map is a simple routine affair that can be done by almost anyone if the proper sources are indicated by someone is a mirage in most cases. If the hours spent on maps in the Chart and Graph Section could be lifted out of that section in the form of a body or two and put into the compilation branch(es) it is felt that the compilers would be able to perform their vital function more effectively and over a greater proportion of the maps done by this Division to the benefit of our quality of production and hence to the benefit of the consumer of our product.

The method of delivery of requesters "Proof Copies" to ONE for use in the meetings which precede the final approval of the NIE and its maps and graphics needs to be determined and made known to all hands. It is not now known to whom such maps are delivered nor by what channel.

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GEOGRAPHY DIVISION

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A meeting was called by the Acting Chief, D/GG, to discuss the lack of uniformity in the unconventional-warfare studies completed to date as regards (1) amount of detail included and (2) terminology. On the former, there was general agreement that the amount of detail in the actual write-ups should be kept to the minimum necessary to justify selection of the areas as either multipurpose and/or escape and evasion areas and that we apply fairly rigid standards to any intention or trend to go beyond this. On (2) above, [REDACTED] were designated a committee to compile a glossary of terms for use in future studies, and they reported back with three recommendations: (1) That working level discussions be held with operational personnel -- suggested by [REDACTED] (2) That D/GG personnel be exposed to current operational concepts at Isolation -- suggested by [REDACTED] and (3) That Academic terminology be dropped from UW studies. As a result of the discussion with [REDACTED] the Acting Division Chief has been asked to assist and participate as an observer at an operational demonstration at a field training site on 25X1A9a 21-23 May.

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FAR EAST BRANCH

It is suggested that some thought be given to placing the finished product of PN 61.1651, the Provisional Administrative Atlas of Mainland China, in channels which will allow its dissemination, at least to American universities. This might be done by following the existing procedure which is used with the NIS Gazetteers -- BGN could request the Government Printing Office to print copies of a sterile issue which could then be sold to the public under a BGN by-line at so much per copy.

It is appreciated that there would be various problems and disadvantages involved in the public dissemination of the Atlas. However, the dissemination of such basic information seems justifiable and necessary if the American academic world is to stay current in their knowledge of Bloc countries.

EDITING AND REVIEW STAFF

Although discussions during two April meetings of the Committee on UW Reports have been very helpful in reviewing the scope of the project, the variation in interpretation of basic requirements among individual analysts is still evident in reports received for editing.

The possibility of a second run of the unclassified report Civil Divisions of the World, for secondary distribution, was discussed with the author and the Acting Chief, D/GG. Because the need for an edition not controlled FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY has not been clearly established, the question remains open until [REDACTED] return from Geneva.

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MAP LIBRARY DIVISION

D/GL personnel consulted with the Documents Division, OCR, regarding a planned program which would attempt to route all map enclosures to military attache reports to D/GL for inspection and possible reproduction prior to dissemination of the reports.

PHOTO INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

NONE REPORTED